

HAMPTON VA

NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Local sports legend, entrepreneurs recognized during “Spotlight” program

Oct. 23, 2013 – A local sports legend and a group of food entrepreneurs were among the community members honored by City Council Wednesday evening during the “Spotlight on Citizens” recognition program at City Hall, 22 Lincoln Street:

Boo Williams

Hampton native Boo Williams is a basketball icon and global ambassador who was a star player at both Phoebus High School and Saint Joseph’s University in Philadelphia. Williams also played professionally overseas.

A recipient of numerous awards and honors, he has been inducted into College Basketball's Big 5 Hall of Fame, and his alma mater, Saint Joseph's, Basketball Hall of Fame. In 2001, he was named the Walt Disney Wide World of Sports Volunteer of the Year. He also serves on the USA/ABA Cadet Committee for Development of Future Olympians. In 1982, Williams founded the Boo Williams Summer League, a Youth Basketball organization based in Hampton, which has become one of the largest and most successful programs in the nation.

Since the founding of the Summer League, Williams has coached and mentored more than 2,500 student athletes. To further provide opportunities for amateur athletes, he built the Boo Williams Sportsplex, a multi-purpose, eight-court sports facility in Hampton. The 135,000 square-foot facility is the largest of its type between Washington, D.C. and Greensboro, N.C., and during its first year in 2008 it attracted more than 96,000 attendees who booked more than 32,000 hotel room nights. They haven’t looked back since.

Williams has been described by many as “the most powerful non-collegiate person in youth basketball in America” and The Boo Williams Summer League is arguably the world's most renowned AAU organization. He has taken teams to International tournaments in Paris, South America, and in Moscow and St. Petersburg, Russia.

Last month, Williams received the Mannie Jackson Basketball Human Spirit Award at the 2013 Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony.

The Mannie Jackson award is given annually to an individual who has found the game of basketball a contributing aspect to their personal growth and accomplishment, a place to develop an

understanding of others, and an avenue that helped shape that individual's growth into a recognized visionary and leader.

Award recipients embrace the core values of the game: hard work, striving to improve, and a commitment to others. Beyond the game they reflect the values of Mannie Jackson's life-long mission to overcome obstacles, challenge the status quo, and take responsibility for your actions while seeking the highest standard of excellence.

Williams received a red-carpet tour of the museum prior to the induction ceremony, along with Hall of Famers Magic Johnson and Pat Summitt, who also received the Mannie Jackson Award this year.

Landmark Hotel Group

Landmark Hotel Group LLC of Virginia Beach is a leader in hospitality development and management, operating in the mid-Atlantic region with more than 450 employees. They recently acquired the Pinewood Plaza office building on Commerce Drive as part of a multi-million dollar mixed-use project in Hampton's Coliseum Central district.

The four-story, 70,000 square foot office building, is currently leased by a variety of tenants, including Dynamics Research Corporation, the Hampton Convention and Visitors Bureau and the Virginia Cooperative Extension.

Pinewood Plaza adds to Landmark's growing real estate portfolio in Hampton, which includes the adjacent Holiday Inn Express and 12 acres of redevelopment property that was once the home of the old Holiday Inn that has recently been demolished.

Both Pinewood Plaza and the new Holiday Inn Express are part of a future mixed-use development that will be built on the approximately 17.71 acres at the intersection of Mercury Boulevard and I-64. In addition to the existing uses, preliminary plans call for luxury apartments, destination retail/dining, and an upscale hotel.

Akhil Jain, President of Landmark, said they plan to invest more than \$800,000 in improvements and upgrades at Pinewood to compliment the significant investment made in the adjacent hotel.

In 2011, Landmark purchased the Quality Inn and adjacent Holiday Inn property on West Mercury Boulevard. Landmark made significant investments in both interior and exterior renovations at the Quality Inn and successfully reflagged it as the Holiday Inn Express during the summer of 2012.

Since the renovation and reflagging, the Holiday Inn Express has become one of Hampton's top hotels on TripAdvisor.com, ranking #2 out of 27 hotels. Jain said it is also among the top 15% of hotels in its brand based on guest satisfaction.

Intercontinental Hotel Group recently selected the Holiday Inn Express as the brand's 2013 Renovation of the Year. Landmark will receive the prestigious award at the 2013 IHG Americas Investors & Leadership Conference in Las Vegas next week.

Measurement Specialties

Measurement Specialties was founded in 1983 as an engineering consulting firm. Today, with its corporate headquarters located in the Hampton Roads Center Central office park in Hampton, Measurement Specialties is a global leader in the design and manufacturing of sensors and sensor-based systems that measure pressure, force, position, vibration, temperature, humidity, and fluid properties.

Since it was founded, Measurement Specialties has acquired 23 companies and business product lines. In fiscal year 2013, Measurement Specialties had global sales of \$359 million. The company's consistent positive financial performance resulted in it being ranked #89 on Fortune's 2013 list of 100 fastest growing companies and #76 on the Forbes Top 100 List.

'Mango Mango' Mango Preserves

'Mango, Mango' Mango Preserves - a relatively new Hampton Business that has had tremendous success selling just four simple natural ingredients with no artificial flavors, colors, fillers or preservatives - is run by three best friends: Nzinga Teule-Hekima, Lakesha Brown-Renfro and Tanecia Willis. They promise to make everyone a chef if they use their preserves.

The three friends and business partners were recently featured on the ABC primetime show "Shark Tank," where businesses present their ideas/products to a panel of potential investors, called "sharks", who consider these offers and make a decision as to whether they make an investment in the business.

'Mango Mango' Mango Preserves has been served in the Virginia Governor's Mansion and the company has received the prestigious Virginia's Finest designation from the Virginia Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services.

Although, ultimately the Sharks did not offer them a deal, they were thoroughly impressed with their product. In fact one of the Sharks, Robert Herjavec, said: "I've never had a product on [the show] that I've liked so much." The friends left the show with some great advice, and their continued growth is highlighted on their Facebook page.

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